FACT SHEET

USAF Fact Sheet

AERONAUTICAL SYSTEMS CENTER

Aeronautical Systems Center is headquartered at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. Its mission is to rapidly develop, acquire, modernize and sustain the world's best aerospace systems. The largest center in Air Force Materiel Command, ASC has a work force of more than 12,300 people located at the base and 37 units worldwide, and manages a yearly budget of approximately $19 billion.

The center is organized into wings, groups and squadrons designed to foster synergy in the acquisition process and speed delivery of war-winning capabilities. These wings, groups and squadrons manage programs for fighter attack, long range strike, reconnaissance, mobility, agile combat support, and special operations forces weapon systems, as well as training aircraft systems. This structure aligns ASC programs with responsibilities executed by Lt. Gen. John “Jack” Hudson, the center’s commander and Air Force Program Executive Officer for aeronautical systems.

ASC programs contribute to Air Force and Department of Defense capabilities for air and space superiority, global strike, global mobility, information superiority, agile combat support and nuclear response. These contributions are the focus of the center’s emphasis on speed and innovation in acquisition management, rapid transition of technology into systems and business practices, development and retention of a high performance work force, and formation of strong partnerships with war-fighting operators in the field, industry and the local community.

To deliver war-winning capabilities, ASC manages development, acquisition and/or modification, and in some cases sustainment, for a wide variety of aircraft and related equipment programs. These include the low-observable B-2 Spirit bomber and F-117A Nighthawk; Global Hawk and Predator, unmanned aerial vehicles used primarily for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions; and a new Combat Search and Rescue helicopter program--all for Air Combat Command. In addition, ASC is supporting development of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter and Joint Unmanned Air Combat System, also for ACC.

Also included is the C-17Globemaster III, developed by ASC for Air Mobility Command. A large-capacity transport with both inter- and intra-theater capabilities, it can airlift troops or oversized loads such as Army battle tanks or Apache helicopters.

ASC manages the CV-22 Osprey and supports legacy systems like the AC-130U gunship and MC-130 Combat Talon II for Air Force Special Operations Command, and the T-6A Texan II joint primary trainer aircraft and T-1A Jayhawk for Air Education and Training Command.

The center also develops and acquires simulator systems; propulsion systems; equipment to resolve aging aircraft issues and electronic systems for targeting, electronic warfare, reconnaissance and other combat functions. In addition, ASC's 311th Human Systems Wing manages a variety of development and acquisition programs that focus on aircrew and ground support personnel.

ASC also provides resource support to the F/A-22 and Airborne Laser programs. The F/A-22 Raptor is the Air Force's newest air-dominance, low-observable fighter: with advanced avionics and super-cruise capability, it is replacing the aging F-15 and provides first-look, first-shot, first-kill capability. Developed and managed by the Missile Defense Agency for Air Combat Command, the ABL is designed to destroy missiles in boost phase, providing critical deterrence and defensive capabilities.

Center staff members interface daily with AFMC's Air Force Research Laboratory, also headquartered at Wright-Patterson. Continuing a long-standing tradition, the two units maintain a strong, symbiotic relationship that helps set the laboratory's research agenda, as well as ensure a continuous flow of critical, advanced technology for the weapon systems that ASC develops and acquires.

ASC also has a Major Shared Resource Center, one of four high-performance computing centers in the Department of Defense and home to three of the largest supercomputers in the United States. Through the use of high-performance information technologies, the center is meeting forecasted needs of the Department of Defense well into the 21st century and is tackling large-scale problems previously beyond the reach of current processing platforms. The MSRC provides a vast array of services in a collaborative environment which includes government, industry, and academia.

In addition, ASC has access to the Simulation and Analysis Facility, a major hub connecting developers and researchers at Wright-Patterson with others across the Air Force, DoD and industry. With use of the MSRC, such linkage affords scientists and engineers who are wrestling with future weapon system integration and operational issues the opportunity to visualize, build, test, and evaluate those systems in a virtual world before work is initiated and significant money is spent.

For More Information, Contact: Aeronautical Systems Center, Public Affairs Office, 1865 Fourth Street, Room 240, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433, (937) 255-3334; DSN 785-3334; email: asc.pa@wpafb.af.mil

(Current as of 31 Aug 2005)